

RUTHRAUFF & RYAN Inc. ADVERTISING

RADIO DIVISION

AMERICAN C. & C. COMPANY
FALL MALL

BELIEVE IT OR NOT
ROBERT L. RIPLEY

BROADCAST

DATE:

NETWORK:

FINAL REV. 755

FRI. 3/31/44

MUTUAL

9:15-9:30 P.M.

E.W.T.

(SIGNATURE - ENDING WITH "HUNTING SONG")

PELL MELL Famous Cigarettes, the cigarette of
Modern Design, presents the man whose whole life
is a constant hunt for facts...

BELIEVE IT OR NOT -- BOB RIPLEY!

(APPLAUSE)

(THEME: - "A HUNTING" - UP FULL TO FINISH WITH
APPLAUSE)

(NEWS SPOT TO FOLLOW)

BELIEVE IT OR NOT -- ROBERT L. RIPLEY MARCH 31, 1944

Greetings everybody and welcome! Tonight you probably heard Gabriel Heatter tell about our Navy in the Far Pacific. A powerful American fleet struck at the Japanese Island of Palau, only five hundred miles from the Phillipine Islands. Now I know many an American husband has growled when his wife put an apron on him and made him "King of the Kitchen." But on this island Palau, the King wears a kitchen apron as the high symbol of royalty. And strangely enough -- his queen is not chosen as a cook -- but she must be the mother of the largest number of children on the island -- and the last Queen had thirty-seven children. And on Palau, the baldheaded men are considered Holy. I'm glad of that. You see baldheadedness on the island is very rare. It seems that the glow of the setting sun casts a sort of halo on their shining pates. So they get a break when they sit in the baldheaded row there -- for the baldheaded men don't have to work -- the community supports them in the very finest style. The Palau Islanders believe that only their King can enter heaven. So anyone wanting to go to Heaven must buy a ticket from the King for a one-way passage to Paradise! (There's no black market on this Island) The natives -- they march right up to the King. They put it right on the line -- The fare for the trip to Heaven is one hundred coconuts ...BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Bob Ripley will be back in just a moment. (PAUSE)
Smokers, PELL MELL'S Modern Design is in plain sight.
Yes, your own eyes give you the proof of PELL MELL'S
advantage to smokers -- your eye tells why. You can
see PELL MELL'S greater length. That's Modern Design!
And when you light your cigarette, you can see that
PELL MELL'S greater length travels the smoke further -
over a twenty per cent longer route of PELL MELL'S
traditionally fine tobaccos. PELL MELL'S greater length
filters the smoke naturally - diminishes heat and bite
on the way - gives you a cooler, smoother, better-tasting
smoke. Ladies and gentlemen, believe the evidence of
your own eyes. PELL MELL gives you visible proof of its
advantage to smokers. Your eye tells why. PELL MELL'S
Modern Design filters the smoke - gives it that cooler,
smoother taste.

(SCENE SETTER - FADE FOR)

AND HERE HE IS AGAIN -- BOB RIPLEY!

Undoubtedly you have had at some time a dream that was
so ~~realistic~~ that when you awakened you had that disturbed
feeling that it wasn't a dream at all. Strange are
the magics of the mind that give us our dreams, and all
the philosophers and scientists in the world have not yet
found the real explanation of ~~many~~ dreams. And certainly
the Believe It Or Not that I'm going to sketch for you
now is based on a dream that would defy the logical
explanations of the most astute scientist.

(SNEAK:)

the time - ^{60 years ago,} ~~the year 1877~~. The place - ^a ~~the~~ court of Quarter Sessions in York, England. Hilary Handw~~itch~~, a young man of twenty-five is on trial ~~for~~ the charge against him - Murder! ^{The case in the hands of the jury and} ~~Both sides, the prosecution and the defense~~ ~~have made their summations and the jury has had the case~~ ~~under deliberation.~~ ^{many} ~~For~~ ^{have been deliberating,} ~~hours they~~ ~~are~~ ^{are} unable to reach a verdict, ^{As our scene opens} ~~Justice~~ Sir George Graham calls the Foreman of the jury before him:

(UP AND OUT)

(DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE)

Your worship - the foreman of the jury!

Ah - yes. ~~What seems to be the difficulty with the jury,~~
~~Foreman?~~

(LANCASHIRE ACCENT:) ~~Al, your worship, The jury's mind~~
~~is made up. But there's one man who is as stubborn as a~~
~~mule.~~

~~One man, eh?~~

Al. The jury stands eleven to one in favor of conviction
but ^{one} ~~this~~ man - Mr. Forbes, ^{he} ~~he~~ won't yield.

Al, The hour is late, and it appears that the jury won't
arrive at a verdict today. In that event - you shall all
be quartered at the Castle - York Castle for the night.

Try to have your verdict in the morning.

Right,
sir, that we will. But that man Forbes - stubborn
he is.

(BRIDGE)

(ROOM NOISE)

(RAPS FOR ORDER:) Gentleman - Gentlemen. (NOISE ABATES:)
You are to be kept in these quarters for the night. Your
foreman will instruct you as to what orders the judge
have him.

Ai, that I will, and we will reach a decision before the
night is out.

Now - dinner will be served here for you. There's roast
beef and Yorkshire pudding.

And you'd better bring a bale of hay for Mr. Forbes -
he's that stubborn, 'e is.

(LAUGHS)

We'll be having no laughter, gentleman. You're a jury
considering a case for murder. There'll be two of us guards watching
you all night long.
I still vote, not guilty, Mr. Foreman, and I'll not change
it.

(GROANS:) We'll be here for weeks. Change your mind, etc.
By the law, every man has a right to his belief. We'll
argue it out after supper.

(BRIDGE)

(STRIKES ONE)

(SLEEPILY:) One, by the clock. And still ye insist on
voting - not guilty? Forbes - you're a hard man.
I'll not see an innocent man go to the gallows.
Eleven of us think he's guilty.
Yes - please, Forbes, agree with us and let us get back
to our jobs and families. Three weeks on this case
already.

I think Hillary Handwitch is innocent.

All right, gentlemen. There's nothing more you can do tonight. You'd better go to sleep. We've arranged cots in the banquet hall, so you can all sleep together. The other guard and myself will keep an eye on you.

Thank you.

~~(YAWNING) We'll call you for an early breakfast.~~

~~Court convenes at nine. Good night.~~

(BRIDGE) They've argued themselves unconscious and still they can't agree.

Alf, look at 'em sleep. ^ Twelve good men and true they are, Alf.

And we've got to watch them like a blinkin' nursemaid.

Aye. I think I'll have a pipe full. Match?

Here. (STRIKES IT)

(OFF: GRUNTS IN SLEEP: MUMBLES INCOHERENTLY:)

Alf, look. One of the jurors. He's gettin' up.

Strike me if he ain't.

(PROJECTS) 'ere you...no walkin' about.

Say - he's asleep. A ruddy sleepwalker he is.

'oo is he?

Juror number eight...forget his nyme.

~~I'll ruddy well put a stop to that. A bloomin' lady.~~

~~Macbeth he is. Look at him walkin' with his arms out in front of him.~~

~~I know how to 'andle sleepwalkers. You lead 'em back to bed...~~

What's he up to? Look. He's reaching in his clothes.

He's lookin' for somethin'.

(SURPRISE) Strike me pink. 'e's got a knife.

A knife?

Lumme. He's walkin' over to Mr. Forbes' cot.

(FOOTSTEPS)

Quick, Alf. 'e's trying to stab Mr. Forbes...(SHOUTS)

Give over, you...give over.

Stop...stop...you...murderer!

(SHOCKED AWAKE: SLEEPILY: OFF SLIGHTLY:) I say..

where am I...what's happened?

What's 'appened. You've just tried to kill a man,
that's what.

(JURORS AWAKEN: WALLAS UP: CONFUSION GENERALLY)

I say -
(OFF: COMING IN) I say - guard, what is this?

~~A near thing, sir. This juror - number eight - just~~
tried to kill...Mr. Forbes.

I - didn't...No, I didn't!

Look at that knife in your hand. ~~A vicious weapon if~~
~~ever I've seen one.~~

Aye. And you were fair ready to plunge it into the
heart of poor sleepin' Mr. Forbes. We saw you.

I say - Mr. Forbes, are you all right?

~~I - think so - Please, guard, may I have a sedative?~~

Why, Mr. Forbes, you're shaking like a leaf.

yes, yes -
Yes, - try to relax, Mr. Forbes. (STERNLY) Now - you -
you tell us about this.

I can't seem to remember...there was a - oh - yes -
a dream. An amazingly vivid dream.

A dream?

Yes - it all comes back to me now. I dreamed that
Mr. Forbes was the murderer! Yes - Mr. Forbes - right
there. I dreamed he murdered the man that ^{Hilary} ~~Handwick~~
is accused of killing.

(EJACULATES) No - No - I -

That was my dream. I dreamed Mr. Forbes was the murderer...and in the dream I sought to kill him to avenge the dead man.

Don't say that...don't say that.

But in the dream...you were the murderer!

Forbes was the murderer?

(START CRESCENDO OF HYSTERIA) No...No...No.

That's what I dreamed, Mr. Forbes.

No...No...You can't say that.

Forbes...are you going out of your mind? You're shaking...~~your eyes are glazed.~~

Why not? He almost got killed.

No...No...(STARTS BABBLING CONFESSION) Mr. Foreman.

I can't stand it any longer.

(PUZZLED) Mr. Forbes...get hold of yourself.

(CRAZILY) I can't stand it. I did kill him! ^{I killed him!...} Yes -

I killed him! I am the murderer.

The murderer? What murderer!

The murderer of the man Hilary Handw~~itch~~ is accused of murdering! I did it. I did it. I killed him - that's why I wouldn't vote guilty! I killed that man - I am the murderer...

(OFF INTO MANIACAL BABBLE AND WIPE WITH)

(PLAY OFF)

ladies and gentlemen,
Yes, ^A Hilary Handw~~itch~~ who was on trial for his life,
accused of murder, ~~had heard the attorney's~~
~~summation~~ and the jury had retired, ^{but} ^A One juror -
Mr. Forbes - held out ~~for~~ a verdict of not guilty.
So, the jury was locked up for the night. In the
middle of the night, juror number eight had a dream.
He dreamed that Forbes himself was the murderer -
and walking in his sleep, juror number eight tried
to stab Forbes as he lay asleep. So great was the
shock to Forbes ^{that} when he awakened, ~~that~~ he confessed.
And the innocent man, Hilary Handw~~itch~~, was freed.
Forbes himself was convicted and hanged for his
^{crime.}
~~crime.~~ So - the ends of justice were served
by a dream, which ~~wrang from the lips of a murderer,~~
~~the confession of his own guilt!~~ BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

(APPLAUSE)

(PLAY OFF)

Now here's Don Hancock!

Ladies and gentlemen, when you watch a PELL MELL smoker try to light an old-fashioned, short cigarette you'll make an important discovery. Unconsciously, he holds the flame a good half inch beyond the tip of the short cigarette. He's looking for something that isn't there. He's looking for PELL MELL'S Modern Design. Modern Design means PELL MELL is longer. Modern Design means PELL MELL is smoother, cooler. From the very first puff, PELL MELL'S greater length travels the smoke further - diminishes heat and bite on the way. PELL MELL'S greater length filters the smoke naturally over a twenty per cent longer route of PELL MELL'S traditionally fine tobaccos. That's Modern Design - PELL MELL'S Modern Design. PELL MELL filters the smoke - gives it that cooler, smoother taste.

("ALL FOR ONE" - FADE FOR)

All for one and one for all. Yes, that's the way we're going to win this war. Over there, all together fighting for victory. Over here, all together working for Victory - the Victory symbolized by the letter "V" - the same letter "V" you see on every package of your PELL MELL Cigarettes!

(UP FULL AND OUT)

And here are Bob Ripley's answers to the V-Mail letters from our boys in the service.

OK

All right, Don - fire away.

Geli, Bob,

Our first letter is from Sergeant Marty Collins, U.S.

Army, who writes: "We got talking about the Italian front the other night and that brought up the saying 'Nero fiddled while Rome burned'. Is this an actual fact?"

Sergeant - it is not.

No - ~~it isn't a fact - it is just a figure of speech,~~

You see, ~~because~~ the fiddle had not even been invented when

Rome burned. And even if it had been, Nero wouldn't

40 miles away Ancio,

have played it because he was at his villa in ~~Antium~~ the very same Ancio beach where our American soldiers are fighting and he did not even see the fire, because he did not return to Rome until the city was in ashes! BELIEVE

this very night.

IT OR NOT!

Staff Sgt. C. H. Moore, Jr. of the U. S. Army writes:

"We all know that it is hotter in summer than in winter, but my C.O. says that the sun is really closer to the earth in winter than in summer. Is this really true?"

Yes. The sun is ^{really} three million miles closer to the earth in winter than ^{it is} in summer. And ~~here's another~~

~~inconsistency~~ - the part of the globe on which the sun ^{the brightest} shines ~~most~~ is called: Darkost Africa! BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

~~Private Ted Gehrig writes: "We know you get a lot of V-Mail letters. Our outfit would like to know what you think is the most unusual letter you ever got from a man in the service."~~

~~Well, Private Gehrig, that's a hard question to answer - but one of the most unusual letters came from a friend of mine. His name is N. O. Gunnar - he went into the Air Force and - of all things - he became a gunner - so NC Gunnar was a gunner! Now, here is what he wrote me: "Dear Bob: My plane was shot out of the sky over Germany and I was taken prisoner. And now - as you can see, I'm really living up to my name - because N O Gunnar really is no gunner, now!" BELIEVE IT OR NOT!~~

Now - on with the Hunt! Here's Bob Ripley with the answer to last night's Believe It Or Not. Bob, you really had me tangled up with your question - "What country of two million people is ruled by a bird?"

~~And you said it wasn't a cuckoo.~~ Well what kind of a bird is it and what country, Bob?

Well, it's the white crow of

~~The country that is ruled by a bird is Kawango in the~~
King

Belgian Congo. The absolute ruler of this country is cross-eyed

~~a white crow. Not only is this crow white, but it is~~

~~cross eyed and it wears black silk stockings. The crow's~~
title

~~name is Yangweh - the Yangweh~~ of Kawango. Of course,

there is a man who is called, "the representative of

the crow." He carries on the government in the name of

the bird, but every act of the government must be

approved by the bird and no law ^{can be} ~~is~~ passed if - the

crow squawks. This bird has a title, a palace, and

hundreds of personal servants. BELIEVE IT OR NOT -

IT'S TRUE!

Well, Bob, how about another one to keep us company over the weekend?

will you tell me what king of the greatest empire

All right, Don... ~~he's this? What river changes the~~
in the world is not allowed to enter the capital of his own country
~~religious affiliation of a present day European King?~~

~~without permission. Now, Don, I'll tell you where it is next Monday.~~
Gee, Bob, I don't get it.

right and I'll give you the answer. I'll tell you who he is because there

~~Well, Don, Monday I'll give you the answer. There is~~
is such a King. He's not allowed to enter the capital of his own country
~~such a river, and when the King of the country crosses~~

~~without permission.~~
~~it he automatically becomes a member of another religious~~

~~denomination!~~ BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Smokers, whenever you buy cigarettes, remember -
PELL MELL'S Modern Design gives you two important
benefits. First, PELL MELL'S greater length
travels the smoke further, diminishes heat and bite
on the way. Second, PELL MELL'S greater length
filters the smoke, gives it that cooler, smoother
taste. That's why, wherever particular people
congregate, you see PELL MELL - in the smart
red package.

(THEME - "A HUNTING" - FADE FOR)

This is Don Hancock reminding you to listen in
Monday night when PELL MELL Famous Cigarettes,
the cigarette of Modern Design, will again present
....BELIEVE IT OR NOT - BOB RIPLEY!

(APPLAUSE FULL)

(THEME - "A HUNTING" - FULL UP TO CUE)

THIS IS MUTUAL.

APRIL